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United Nations Forum on Forests
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Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030: policy dialogue on the thematic and operational priorities, priority actions and resource needs for the period 2017–2018, taking into account the review cycle of the high-level political forum on sustainable development during the biennium and the theme of the International Day of Forests

Letter dated 15 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit herewith the Co-Chairs summary report of the international conference on the theme "Working across sectors to halt deforestation and increase forest area: from aspiration to action", which was held at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome from 20 to 22 February 2018.

The Conference, organized by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, was a joint initiative of all 14 members of the Partnership to provide an input, through the thirteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, to the review of Sustainable Development Goal 15 by the high-level political forum on sustainable development. The Conference was co-sponsored by the Governments of Austria, Canada, Germany and the Netherlands and the European Union. It gathered together around 300 experts from 65 countries and 39 international, regional and non-governmental organizations, processes and instruments, as well as major groups.

I hereby request that you include the present report among the documentation for the thirteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, to be held from 7 to 11 May 2018.

(*Signed*) Marc-André **Blanchard**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* E/CN.18/2018/1.

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Annex to the letter dated 15 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Co-Chairs* summary report of the international conference on the theme "Working across sectors to halt deforestation and increase forest area: from aspiration to action"

A joint initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

I. Key messages to the thirteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the high-level political forum on sustainable development 2018: Actions to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 15.2 and global forest goal 1.1

- **Urgent action.** Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 15, especially halting deforestation and restoring degraded forests by 2020 requires urgent action now. Best practices and tools are available, but their application must be upscaled and progress accelerated.
- **Promoting sustainable value chains.** Sustainable agriculture needs healthy and productive forests. Legal, inclusive and sustainable value chains in agriculture and forestry that prevent deforestation and degradation should be promoted and upscaled through positive incentives to companies and small producers. Corporate responsibility for zero deforestation is key.
- **Empowering youth and facilitating investment.** Civil society and young people in particular should be empowered as agents of change for realizing the full value of forests and halting and reversing deforestation. Governments should be urged to ensure policy coherence, provide the enabling framework and facilitate investment and finance for sustainable agriculture and forest management.
- **Strengthening capacity and education.** Halting deforestation, restoring degraded forests and increasing forest cover requires the development of the technical and business capacity of small producers, the strengthening of forestry education at all levels and the education of consumers.

II. Conference objectives, opening and keynote addresses[1]

The Conference brought together some 300 participants from within and outside the forest sector[2] to identify actions urgently needed to achieve two global targets set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030:

* Muhammad Shahrul Ikram Yaakob, Chair of the thirteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations; and Hiroto Mitsugi, Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and Assistant Director-General of the Forestry Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

[1] All Conference documents are available from www.cpfweb.org/93859/en/.

[2] Participants were from more than 65 countries and 69 international and regional organizations and private sector and civil society organizations.

- By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally (Sustainable Development Goal 15.2).

- By 2030, the forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide[3] (United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, global forest goal 1.1).

Conference discussions were solutions-oriented and forward-looking, focusing on examples of best practice, country experiences and upscaling success stories. The Co-Chairs summary will be presented to the thirteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (7–11 May 2018) for its consideration and referral to the high-level political forum on sustainable development 2018 (9–18 July 2018), at which progress at the global level on the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 15,[4] among others, will be reviewed.

At the opening ceremony, speakers stressed that there was an urgent need to halt deforestation, with only 22 months left until the target date of 2020 specified in Goal 15.2. They also noted that the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 provided a global framework for action on forests and that the target of increasing forest area globally by 3 per cent by 2030 was realistic. The benefits of halting deforestation and increasing forest area were illustrated in the context of the African-led Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative.

The keynote addresses on the theme "Setting the scene" highlighted the need:

- To recognize, and communicate more clearly, the fundamental link between climate change and forests. Forests and soils provide the safest and most efficient mechanisms for contributing to climate change targets through negative emissions. However, in terms of carbon loss, forest degradation is even more serious than deforestation.

- For an all-inclusive approach that embraces the urgent need to halt deforestation (including loss of primary forest), tackle forest degradation, restore degraded lands, increase forest area and promote the benefits of trees outside forests.

- For integrated, cross-sectoral and comprehensive real-world policies that focus on the motivations of individual people and include advocacy, awareness-raising, demonstrations of success, leverage of social capital, engagement with the private sector and consumers and the use of innovative financing instruments.

The keynote addresses on the theme "Vision for a way forward" stressed that:

- The international community has the political commitment, the knowledge and the processes to halt deforestation and increase forest area and urgently needs to make the shift towards transformative and scaled-up action for sustainable forest management, developing catalytic partnerships to that end.

- Performance should be judged against five criteria, namely, productivity, profitability, environmental stewardship, good governance and management, and social inclusion.

- Young people need to be empowered, trained and organized in order to promote and facilitate the collective changes needed to halt deforestation and increase forest area, recognizing that policies should be intergenerational as well as cross-sectoral.

[3] Based on the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015.

[4] Sustainable Development Goal 15: "Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss".

III. Key points and outcomes from thematic discussions

The Conference focused on four cross-cutting themes, which are crucial to halting deforestation and increasing forest area: (a) approaches to managing landscapes in an integrated way under a changing climate; (b) sustainable commodities and value chains; (c) forest-smart policies and governance; and (d) innovative instruments to upscale progress: financing, technologies and research. Key points and outcomes from the discussions are summarized below.

Theme 1: Approaches to managing landscapes in an integrated way under a changing climate

The landscape scale provides scope for looking at land-use and natural-resource management in an integrated, participatory and transparent way and identifying the transformational changes needed to maximize long-term benefits to society and promote resilience and adaptation to climate change.

A. Integrated landscape management, sustainable forest management and landscape restoration

Integrated landscape management approaches centre on people, communities and ecosystems at scale. They have the potential to tackle drivers of deforestation and land and forest degradation and promote sustainable forest management while meeting economic, social and environmental objectives. Land-use competition between forests and agriculture, in particular, can be solved when people's needs for forests, trees, water and agricultural activities are considered as a whole at scale. Forest and landscape restoration is an integrated land-use management approach focused on restoring natural resources to improve livelihoods.

The way forward

Country experiences and lessons learned indicate that success in developing and implementing integrated landscape management strategies, including for sustainable forest management and forest and landscape restoration, requires:

- Understanding: (a) the role and contribution of the natural resource base to the lives of people and how natural processes underpin community well-being and enterprises; (b) the role of culture and the priorities of women and men; and (c) the legal and jurisdictional context.
- Involving all stakeholders and ensuring that their voices are heard, particularly indigenous peoples, women and young people, and developing multi-stakeholder initiatives to address diverse views and interests, resolve or reduce conflicts and find compromise solutions.
- Protecting the rights of land users, including tenure of land and resources.
- Providing financial and other incentives to smallholders and farmers that generate income and equitable benefit-sharing, including alternative livelihoods.
- Identifying benefits from production value chains and the recipients of those benefits.

B. Agroforestry and silvopastoral systems

Agricultural productivity and resilience, food security and the incomes of small farmers can be increased through diversified agricultural production systems that integrate trees, crops and livestock in the landscape through appropriately designed and locally adapted agroforestry and silvopastoral systems.

The way forward

There is an urgent need to further develop and upscale proven systems for integrating trees and forests with crop, livestock and fisheries production. Experiences from different regions show that:

- Scaling up agroforestry requires simultaneous and context-specific technological, market and policy innovations that stimulate change in established agricultural practices, help to overcome the time lag between investing in trees and realizing returns and provide secure land and tree tenure.
- Researchers and extension workers should work closely with farmers and other stakeholders to help to ensure effective knowledge transfer by providing detailed information about benefits and costs, for example, through demonstration areas that show which agroforestry and silvopastoral techniques are best suited to particular geographical situations.
- Indicators to assess the net benefits of agroforestry systems to communities should go beyond productivity to include environmental factors.

C. Sustainable agricultural production approaches

The need to feed a growing world population is expected to require 50 per cent more agricultural production by 2050. That, in turn, will require sustainable agricultural intensification, with more efficient use of land in order to reduce the pressure on forests from agricultural expansion. The ecosystem services provided by trees and forests, including pollination, biodiversity conservation, land restoration and soil and water conservation, are vital for sustainable agriculture.

The way forward

Success in sustainable agricultural intensification is critically dependent on the willingness and ability of producers to adopt integrated systems. The systems will need to be more profitable, productive and resilient than the current systems; rural women will need to be empowered; and risks will need to be managed. That, in turn, will require innovative forms of collaboration, including work by:

- Policymakers, to set targets on the adoption of sustainable agricultural production systems and create effective incentives for producers to improve current practices and consumers to favour such practices.
- Researchers and scientists, to address such issues as profitability, productivity, environmental and climatic resilience and social inclusion.
- Community organizations and other collaborative mechanisms, to promote knowledge- and experience-sharing among producers.
- The private sector, to assess investment costs and risks in order to manage the transition to more sustainable agricultural systems.

A common vision for sustainable food and agriculture in the context of the 2030 Agenda can act as a key accelerator for changes in mindsets, policies and practices by all involved, including broader society. One of the greatest challenges will be

addressing agricultural subsidies, which amount to $200 billion each year. These urgently need to be reviewed and brought in line with the goal of halting deforestation.

Theme 2: Sustainable commodities and value chains

Reducing the impact of commodity production on forests can be achieved through corporate commitments, improved forest product value chains, support for smallholders and tools to capture the full values of forests.

A. Zero deforestation commitments for agricultural commodities

Some 470 companies have committed to zero deforestation from the production of agricultural commodities (oil palm, soy, cocoa, beef products) by 2020. Many others have yet to do so, largely because consumers in sensitive markets are unwilling to pay a sufficient premium to cover the costs of sustainably produced products; large "insensitive" global markets exist for unsustainably produced commodities; the implementation of corporate commitments is often framed negatively by third parties, affecting consumer views; improvement in production practices in one locale may shift unsustainable practices to other locations (leakage); and public financing to support the halting of deforestation is often not accessible to companies.

The way forward

Actions and pathways forward to actively engage more companies and accelerate the implementation of existing corporate commitments include:

- Educating and raising the awareness of consumers so that buying decisions reward sustainably produced products.
- Intensifying commodity production in place rather than expansion to new areas.
- Improving government leadership, cross-sectoral coordination and communication with the private sector to establish a coherent public policy framework for sustainable production.
- Blending finance such that all actors, namely, consumers, producers, governments and industry, contribute to the costs of sustainability.
- Building capacity for using traceability mechanisms and technologies (for example, blockchains) to enhance transparency along supply chains and demonstrate sustainable production and processing.
- Moving to a landscape approach in supplying commodities, including developing public-private partnerships and consortiums to develop a "landscape standard" that goes beyond certification.
- Encouraging companies to establish sound procurement policies and disclose information about their implementation status while paying due attention to the potential risks of their commodities becoming the driver of deforestation on the supply side.

B. Forest product value chains in the bioeconomy

Sustainable, inclusive and diversified forest product value chains can increase the value of forests, make efficient use of renewable resources and contribute to sustainable consumption and production through enhanced use of renewable forest resources to replace non-renewable materials and sources of energy.

The way forward

In order to further develop and strengthen forest product value chains in the bioeconomy, there is a need to:

- Establish timebound national and/or regional commitments and targets to further stimulate the sustainable production and consumption of forest products, especially tropical forest products, as opposed to other non-renewable materials, including in building and construction.
- Upscale awareness-raising and education throughout the whole supply chain, from markets to source, about the value of sustainably produced forest products and the environmental and socioeconomic benefits of sustainably managed forests. That will lead to better access to finance and open market access for suppliers, particularly for suppliers of tropical forest products.
- Build capacity and develop skills so that private sector investors can recruit appropriately educated staff.
- Create local employment through the identification of markets for value-added products that can be manufactured using small-scale technologies.

C. Strengthening small-scale producers and their organizations

Collectively, small-scale producers represent the biggest sector, with communities, indigenous peoples and smallholders managing about one third of the world's forests. Improving the performance of small-scale forest and farm producers can have a significant impact on halting deforestation and increasing forest area. Returning revenues generated by community enterprises back to communities is a powerful mechanism to promote rural development. Effective producer organizations can also help corporations to implement zero deforestation commitments, for example, by providing partners for outgrower schemes.

The way forward

Experience from successful initiatives to enhance the contribution of small-scale producers to local livelihoods and economic development and to strengthen small-scale producers' organizations has highlighted the critical importance of:

- Secure tenure and access to finance, technical assistance, training and markets.
- Strengthening forest and farm producer organizations to give small-scale producers a stronger voice when dealing with governments and large corporations.
- Adopting a full value chain approach when upscaling the development of forest and farm producer organizations.

Serious and urgent consideration should be given to the creation of a global facilitation network for actively promoting forest and farm producer organizations. That would help to catalyse progress by providing a mechanism to stimulate and disseminate best practice.

D. Valuing forest ecosystems

Forests constitute a natural resource stock that supplies a flow of benefits to people, business and society, including ecosystem services and other non-market functions (for example, soil, water, carbon and biodiversity benefits). It is essential to put a value on these services and functions in order to make a compelling case for halting deforestation and forest degradation and increasing forest cover. Payments for

ecosystem services schemes have been successfully applied at various levels. Stock-based approaches that account for forests as natural capital and look beyond ecosystem services to "hidden" forest values (for example, pollination) and "missing" values (insurance against future risk, forests as nature) are also emerging and hold promise.

The way forward

Achieving wider application and upscaling of payments for ecosystem services systems, including through South-South cooperation, will require:

- Payments for ecosystem services systems that are simple to apply, provide direct benefits to landowners and other service providers and are designed to create momentum on the ground.
- Payments for ecosystem services systems that are flexible enough to generate and maintain natural capital in different contexts, with consideration given to up-front incentives, bottom-up investments and life-cycle assessments.
- Governments to provide the necessary enabling conditions to support payments for ecosystem services schemes through predictable sources of revenue (for example, carbon taxes, eco-taxes, user-pay arrangements, broad-based consumer fees), as well as to ensure social safeguards and support monitoring frameworks.
- Governments to work with the private sector (for example, utility companies) to harmonize initiatives and assign value to ecosystem services.
- Clear communication of the benefits of payments for ecosystem services systems to buyers and payers of the ecosystem service(s) provided.

Theme 3: Forest-smart policies and governance

Forest-smart policies engage leaders and stakeholders across sectors (agriculture, energy, infrastructure, transport, mining, etc.) in finding solutions to minimize damage to forests and optimize the contribution of forests to achieving the objectives of other sectors. The forest-smart approach transforms how sectors operate by identifying opportunities for mutual benefit and creating practical solutions that can be implemented at scale.

A. Cross-sectoral policy coordination

Coordination across sectors at all levels is essential to the development of forest-smart policies that help to halt deforestation and forest degradation. There are increasing examples of national policies and initiatives that integrate forest-based solutions in other sectors, including afforestation campaigns to reduce large-scale seasonal erosion and combat desertification while promoting water and food security; incentives to intensify agriculture on existing farmland and turn degraded pastures into cropland; integration of mangrove protection into national disaster risk management strategies and fisheries management; comprehensive national strategies on climate change and plant resources; and studies to help design forest-smart mining policies that account for the direct and indirect effects of mining on forests.

The way forward

Upscaling successful models of intersectoral policy development and implementation should include actions at the national, subnational and/or local levels designed to:

- Enshrine forest policy objectives in laws and regulations and/or development plans.
- Emphasize win-win solutions and synergies (in addition to trade-offs) between forests and other economic sectors.
- Bring planning and finance ministries to the table in the process of cross-sectoral policy coordination and articulate the economic and social value of forests in the context of development planning and funding allocations.
- Facilitate the role of civil society, as an independent actor, to bridge interests between and across sectors by engaging stakeholders in policy interventions at the landscape level.

B. Improving land governance

Tenure insecurity in forestry is linked to deforestation. Subsistence agriculture contributes to deforestation, particularly in Africa and, to a lesser extent, in Asia and Latin America. Securing the access, tenure rights and sustainable livelihoods of local communities and smallholders in forested landscapes is vital for halting deforestation and degradation and for restoring forests at a significant scale. Clear and well-enforced land and forest tenure laws are a fundamental basis for good forest governance and legality.

The way forward

Good land governance requires participatory and inclusive processes, transparency and accountability, and respect for the rule of law. In order to achieve that, Governments should:

- Establish clear and consistent policy and legal frameworks, including land tenure arrangements, to facilitate private sector operations and diversify and secure tenure to forests for local communities.[5]
- Identify strategies to maximize positive social and environmental impacts of investments through such measures as regulation of land-use change, transparency in land deals, protection of local and customary rights, enforcement of safeguards, and monitoring.
- Remove perverse incentives to clear forests and provide economic incentives to smallholders and communities to manage trees on forest lands, adopting integrated approaches to support the role of forests in sustainable agriculture and social welfare.

C. Role of forest law enforcement, governance and trade instruments

Illegal logging and associated trade is estimated to be valued at some $30 billion to $100 billion annually and is a major cause of forest degradation. Demand-side regulations, such as the European Union Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Action Plan and subsequent bilateral Voluntary Partnership Agreement processes, have helped to stimulate positive measures to strengthen governance in supplier countries. Voluntary certification is also a valuable tool, and it is estimated that at least one third of industrial roundwood production is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council and/or the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes.

[5] The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security, is an important reference in this regard.

The way forward

A number of valuable lessons that have been learned from the experience of the European Union Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Action Plan have wider application for other countries considering similar approaches and also for efforts to reduce deforestation caused by the expansion of agricultural commodities such as palm oil, soy and beef:

- Multi-stakeholder dialogue approaches have been a key element of European Union Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Action Plan efforts and are crucial for success. While developed as part of Voluntary Partnership Agreement processes, they have, in some countries, evolved to serve as useful platforms for addressing wider deforestation-related issues.
- Sustaining natural forests is dependent on giving them economic value in ways that maintain the ecological integrity of the forests. This may include non-consumptive uses such as tourism, as well as timber production.
- Fighting corruption is fundamental, given that corruption undermines even the best legality initiatives and systems.
- Effective law enforcement is critically dependent on understanding and responding to the needs of local communities.

D. The role of stakeholders: public, private and civil society

Stakeholders include a wide range of actors within and outside government, across sectors and scales, and along value chains. Non-governmental stakeholders may include forest owners, farmers, smallholders, indigenous and local communities, women and young people, as well as small, medium and large forest and agriculture-based enterprises and companies. Public, private and civil society stakeholders can act as agents of change for finding and implementing solutions to deforestation and forest degradation through their different but complementary roles.

The way forward

- As forest regulators and often large-scale forest owners, governments at all levels must take the lead in putting in place the enabling conditions needed to ensure that all forests are sustainably managed and to attract long-term financing and investment to that end. This includes establishing participatory, inclusive and transparent processes for involving community and corporate stakeholders in land-use planning and decision-making.
- Agribusiness should meet its commitments to zero deforestation from the production and processing of agricultural commodities by 2020. Companies that have not made zero deforestation commitments should do so. Commodity investors should adopt business models that are environmentally and socially responsible and involve and benefit local and community producers, distributors and other value chain actors through, for example, extension programmes and the joint design of sustainable land-use plans on corporate land.[6]
- The forest products industry should ensure legal and sustainable value chains for forest-based commodities, including through forest management and chain-of-custody certification, and work with local communities in the process.
- Civil society organizations serve as watchdogs and agents of change by holding governments and business to account. Non-governmental groups should

[6] The Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems, endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security, is an important reference is this regard.

increase their voice and influence through multi-stakeholder initiatives and platforms that promote understanding and recognition of the roles, contributions and interests of actors, both men and women, along value chains and across enterprises.

- Public and private actors should fully tap into the potential of civil society, particularly women and young people. Young people can facilitate collective action, engagement, innovation, capacity-building, networking and partnerships and provide a long-term perspective.

Theme 4: Innovative instruments to upscale progress: financing, technologies and research

Innovative instruments that will help to secure the finance and build the technical and scientific capacity needed for effective action to halt deforestation and increase forest area are emerging in both the public and private sectors.

A. Public and private international finance

International public finance for forests, estimated at about $1 billion annually, has a critical role to play in financing sustainable forest and land management, particularly by catalysing and leveraging significantly larger private investments. Agricultural and timber commodity production and trade, with annual investments estimated at $150 billion, are target sectors. Opportunities also exist to unlock climate change financing. Globally, land use and forest change account for 25 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions but receive only 2 per cent of funding available for mitigation. By systematically redirecting private and public capital towards a better balance between enhanced agricultural output and smallholder farm income and the need to reduce emissions and conserve forests and biodiversity, significant additional funding can be generated to maintain and sustainably manage forests.

The way forward

Innovative examples of public-private finance for forest-sensitive commodity production ("blended finance for blended development") already exist or are emerging at various levels. The potential to upscale and replicate the following models should be explored:

- Commercial banks with agricultural commodity client bases are issuing loans that benefit sustainable land-use practices at scale, with eligible projects incorporating forest benefits in the form of forest protection, reforestation and/or integrated crop-livestock-forestry systems, among others. Commercial capital is supplemented by small public concessional finance to extend repayment periods and reduce commercial risk. Smallholders can be brought into formal supply chains through digital platforms or by setting up cooperatives, which can facilitate access to capital.

- Bilateral donors are exploring the use of capital from climate funds to stimulate and leverage private finance to help to tackle greenhouse emissions from forests, agriculture and other land uses through such means as setting a floor price for carbon, developing forest bond mechanisms, reducing investment risk and subordinating debt.

- In all cases, greater transparency in the production and processing of agricultural commodities can be expected to trigger demand-side signals favouring sustainably produced products.

- Results-based finance is a cornerstone in the approach to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries as outlined in the Paris Agreement. The ongoing pilot programme for results-based payments for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries will provide important lessons on implementing effective financing frameworks at the national and international levels for conservation, sustainable management of forests and the enhancement of forest stocks.

B. Mobilizing domestic funding

Domestic public finance can play a critical role in complementing official development assistance, funding forest activities focused on social and environmental benefits and catalysing private financing for forests. Good examples of practical and innovative ways to mobilize domestic funding include payments for ecosystem services schemes, biodiversity offsets levied on industry, and public-private partnerships at various levels. Work in the context of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries indicates that the bulk of public investments at the national level tend to be in the agricultural sector and may have a negative impact on forests, indicating a need to better align public and private investments.

The way forward

Success in unlocking sustainable domestic financing sources will be facilitated through:

- Widely communicating and upscaling successful business models; for example, government agencies are working with national banks to disburse loans and provide credit to small producers and distributors of commodities based on technical assistance, training and tailored credit lines. Access to concessional interest rates and loan guarantees can enhance these models.
- Clear and consistent enabling frameworks to address subsidies and perverse incentives.
- A shared long-term vision for processes that takes time, especially public-private partnerships and multisectoral cooperation.
- Integrated approaches at the jurisdictional and/or landscape scales, working with several investment partners, including corporate private sector and small-scale producers, combining forest protection and conservation with commodity production.
- Establishing clear guidelines for supply chains and national investment frameworks to determine the impact on forests of domestic financial flows to agriculture.

C. Innovative technologies for land-use monitoring

Innovative technologies have transformative potential given that they are making much more information freely and widely available. In particular, developments in remote sensing are making it possible to undertake increasingly sophisticated analyses of changing landscape dynamics over time. Meanwhile, rapid local surveys can be undertaken using drones. Initiatives are under way to build capacity to handle vast quantities of data. For example, the cloud-based SEPAL

computing platform facilitates countries' access to Earth observation data in ways that overcome processing issues and low computing power. A range of available online training packages is facilitating capacity development.

The way forward

Experience in the recent use of innovative technologies for land-use monitoring has shown that their value can be further enhanced by:

- Using results from remote sensing (such as maps and graphs) to present powerful messages to decision-makers about the nature and scale of deforestation and land degradation studies, as well as for monitoring progress against green indicators.
- Providing auditable data for natural capital accounting, which has the potential to be a major driver of behaviour change within the private sector. This will require the development of robust and regionally relevant protocols based on scientific input and reliable and up-to-date information.

D. Science and research

Science has a major contribution to make in the design of policies aimed at addressing the complex drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, for example, by improving the understanding of the underlying causes of deforestation, such as population pressure and growing global food demand. There are many examples of substantive, transformative knowledge available in research that can be transferred and scaled up for greater impact.

The way forward

In order to make full use of science and research and accelerate progress towards halting deforestation, restoring degraded landscapes and increasing forest area, there is a need to:

- Develop platforms that bring together science and policymakers, the private sector and other stakeholders to increase mutual understanding, align research priorities with the needs of stakeholders and provide practical pathways that support the development of evidence-based policies and implementation frameworks related to forests.
- Promote innovative collaboration, including international and interdisciplinary scientific collaboration and the integration of scientific expertise with other forms of expertise, in order to create context-sensitive solutions and policies.
- Widely disseminate successful practices and technologies that create win-win situations for productive and sustainable forest and agricultural land use.

The research community also has a vital role in helping to communicate clear and compelling messages about the urgent need to tackle deforestation and forest degradation. Much of the necessary information is available, but there is also a need for more effective communication to a wider range of audiences.

Appendix

Youth message to the thirteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests*

Unlocking the potential of youth to halt deforestation

Although young people represent diverse stakeholder groups — rural and urban, formally educated and not, privileged and underprivileged — we share a vested interest in ensuring the sustainable use of global landscapes and are prepared to work across sectors and leap from aspiration to action.

Key message. We call for an awakening to the reality that youth are valuable partners and agents of change in efforts to halt deforestation, particularly in facilitating collective action, building capacity and sharing the message with everyday people.

As youth, we:

(a) Recognize that now is the time for young voices to be included in policy dialogue, technical discussions and decision-making, at all levels. Our inclusion is critical to not only halting deforestation but moving forward the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(b) Have demonstrated that we are not just a voice but deliver tangible outcomes as evidenced by the United Nations Forum on Forests children and youth major group workplan 2018–2022;

(c) See diverse representation across gender, ethnicity and age as a basic requirement to achieving success and will advocate for inclusion in conference panels and the ranks of decision-makers;

(d) Acknowledge the opportunity for us to grasp momentum and drive meaningful change, but stress that the children and youth major group workplan 2018–2022 and broader youth efforts will be inhibited without financial and institutional support from government and business;

(e) Are willing to take risks, move to implementation at scale and adapt to coming challenges;

(f) Recognize that we cannot do this work alone and are prepared to spark an intergenerational effort alongside governments, businesses and civil society in support of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and the 2030 Agenda.

What do youth require to succeed?

- Urgency in the current situation: youth are prepared to lead the way.
- Youth representation in steering committees for events and workshop planning from the outset.

* This message reflects the outcome from a cross-sectoral youth session held on 19 February 2018 at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in partnership with the International Forestry Students' Association, the Global Landscapes Forum and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. The session, led by youth for youth, provided training on gender and the landscape approach as well as a consultation to develop the children and youth major group workplan 2018–2022 for the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. A total of 50 youth delegates took decisive action and developed a five-day online short course communicating the key messages of the conference, which reached more than 30,000 people

- Financial, institutional and vocal support for the children and youth major group workplan 2018–2022 to deliver success by 2022.
- Project ownership and budget responsibility in our efforts to drive change.
- Adequate youth representation in conference panels around the world; we challenge all future forest-related panels to have someone under age 35 to provide innovative and progressive insight.
- Organizations, businesses and governments to provide their young staff with leave and financial support to engage in events, workshops and other opportunities to advance our collective cause.
- Trust in our capability, intellect and drive to succeed.